



Board of Education Special Education Committee

December 18, 2025

Time 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Board of Education Room

Minutes

Present: B. Bass, P. Sullivan-Nunes, S. Kaplan, S. Grosso, K. Slentz

The committee convened the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

1. Framing the work

Committee

- a. Review and approval of agenda

The committee approved the agenda.

2. Updates and Recommendations

Administration

- a. Student updates

- i. In-district students

S. Kaplan and S. Grosso stated that while there are a few areas of student concern, they are pleased with the current progress of our students, particularly those students who have returned from out-of-district placements.

- ii. Out-of-district students

S. Kaplan and S. Grosso reported that they have visited students enrolled in out-of-district programs to monitor progress and determine whether some students may be able to return to district-based programs for the 2025–26 school year. Most students are demonstrating progress, and several students will be graduating this year, including two who have been accepted to college. S. Kaplan and S. Grosso further reported that students with significant therapeutic needs will likely continue to be placed in out-of-district programs, as the district is currently unable to develop programs that adequately meet these students' needs.

- iii. Due process status

S. Kaplan updated the committee on the status of due process complaints. The district continues to see a decrease in these cases.

- iv. Assistive technology use

S. Kaplan and G. Grosso provided the committee with an update on the use of assistive technology in the district's special education programs. Assistive technology is most commonly used by students with limited communication skills or who are nonverbal. One student

currently uses a frequency modulation (FM) system to support hearing. Overall, the use of assistive technology remains limited.

b. Referral status

S. Kaplan and S. Grosso reported that the district has received 27 referrals so far this year, an increase compared to previous years. Of those referrals, 21 were reviewed by the Committee on Special Education (CSE), and 11 students were determined to be eligible for services.

3. Discussion Items

a. Staffing and program changes

i. 2025-26

S. Kaplan and S. Grosso reported that they have continued to work on recruiting teaching assistant candidates and long-term leave replacements, including a leave replacement for our occupational therapist. By next week, S. Grosso anticipates that all teaching assistant positions will be filled.

ii. 2026-27

S. Kaplan and S. Grosso reported that a new teacher may be needed to open an additional special class at Springhurst. An additional .5 FTE or contractor may be necessary to address the significant increase in testing for special education referrals and reevaluations.

4. Next Meeting Date

Committee

a. January 15, 2026

5. Adjourn

Committee

The committee adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.